

U S. Serial No. 09/903,374  
Group Art Unit # 3764

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 6 please amend the second full paragraph to read:

The support structure 16 is wound along a winding axis A about the membrane 14 at a winding angle W relative to the longitudinal axis L of the prosthesis 10. The winding angle W is preferably greater than 0° and can be up to 90°, as is the case when the support structure 16 is a ring or plurality of rings. The support structure 16 is preferably wound at a winding angle or pitch W such that the ridges 18 are spaced apart a distance, indicated by arrow D in Figures 1 and 3, effective to direct a needle to a puncture site at an angle that inhibits needle plowing and hole enlarging. Applicants determined that a spaced-apart distance D of approximately less than or equal to 1.5 times the outer diameter of the needle is effective to direct the needle between the ridges 18 at angle that inhibits needle plowing and hole enlarging.